

**New Shoreham Town Council Meeting
Town Hall, Old Town Road, Block Island
Monday, January 03, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

Present: First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Second Warden Raymond J. Torrey, Town Councilors Peter B. Baute, Kenneth C. Lacoste and Richard P. Martin. Also present was Town Manager Nancy O. Dodge. Town Clerk Fiona Fitzpatrick took the minutes of the meeting.

First Warden Gaffett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Warden's Report: First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett reminded those present that the RI Coastal Resources Management Commission would meet on Tuesday January 11, 2011 to hand down the decision on Champlins Realty Inc.'s application to expand their marina in the Great Salt Pond. The meeting will be at 5:30 at the Narragansett Town Hall. The first event of the 350th Anniversary Committee was the Polar Bear Plunge. Nancy Worth received a certificate of occupancy for her home, which was donated and moved under the auspices of the Block Island Housing Board. Town Manager Nancy Dodge reported the Island's Emergency Management Agency was not formally activated for the December 26, 2010 storm, which featured hurricane force winds and power outages. EMA co-Director Peter Gempp personally checked on those at risk.

Public Input: Martha Ball said the sand in the Town Beach parking lot should be moved before it is declared a coastal feature. Arlene Tunney said West Beach eroded in the recent storm. John Willis said there was poaching near his Beacon Hill home. Councilor Martin noted with sadness that William Murray passed away this weekend.

1. Act on Receive and act on report from the Deer Task Force

Present for the Deer Task Force were Mary Sue Record, Becky Ballard, Chris Blane, Pat Doyle, William Wilson and Maggie Komosinski. The report is attached to these minutes. There was a brief discussion of the recommendations.

Councilor Baute moved to accept report and put recommendations on an upcoming agenda, seconded by First Warden Gaffett.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

2. Receive and act on letter from Chris Blane re: deer hunting dates on Town Land

Chris Blane was present. First Warden Gaffett explained the Town Council set hunting dates for town land at Plat 20, Lot 20 at their April meeting and set hunting dates for Plat 1, Lot 16 at their October meeting. She said deer hunting on Plat 20, Lot 20 will be allowed from the end of waterfowl season to the end of hunting season (January 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, February 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 28). Hunting on Plat 1, Lot 16 will be allowed for the last two weeks of the 2010 – 2011 deer hunting season, February 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 28th. Hunting on Plat 1, Lot 16 on Town property. Hunting on both parcels will be administered by the Town Manager.

3. Act to authorize transfer of funds from contingency for Deer tag reimbursements

Five hunters turned in a total of twenty-one tags for reimbursement. As per Council policy, all tags for antlerless deer are reimbursed at \$12.50.

Councilor Martin moved to allocate \$262.50 from contingency for deer tag reimbursements. Motion seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

4. Receive and act on Harbor Committee recommendation re: transfer of A. Starr mooring

Nancy Starr asked that her late father's mooring permit be transferred to her son Gregory Kyte. If that transfer is not possible under the ordinance, she asked that the mooring go to her. The Harbors Committee provided an opinion advising a denial of the transfer to Mr. Kyte and an

approval of the transfer to Ms. Starr. The Harbors Committee has been steering their decisions with a policy that will go to the Town Council for ratification on an upcoming agenda.

Mr. Lacoste moved to follow recommendation of Harbors Committee and allow the transfer of F. Albert Starr's mooring to Nancy Kyte. Motion was seconded by Mr. Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

5. Receive Town Manager update on Old Harbor Dock project

Town Manager Dodge reported the project is on schedule and there were no problems because of the recent storm. The welder is putting in storm water drains. The area will be backfilled when the drains are finished. Tomorrow or Wednesday the crew will begin to install pilings to support the west dock. Pilings will be spot checked on the south dock. The Town is waiting for one bill, and then financials can be produced. The Historic District Commission has already approved siting and massing of the Dockmaster's building; it will be on the next agenda.

6. Discuss and act on disposition of Spring House Pump House building

The Town Manager reported Engineer Jim Geremia has said the building and well tiles can be removed and the spillway stabilized with boulders and crushed stone. A written report is coming. The Town Manager believes to cost of demolition will be minimal because the road crew will do the work. Council agreed to go forward with demolition unless the Block Island Land Trust brings another plan forward at their meeting Monday.

7. Act on letter from BIED Foundation re: waiver of 2011 Victualling License fee

The Block Island Economic Development Foundation requested a waiver of the victualling license fee for the Old Harbor Meadows Community Center.

Councilor Baute moved to waive the \$50 victualling license fee for Block Island Economic Development Corporation, seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

8. Receive notice from Schacht & McElroy re: automatic Return on Equity 1.92% rate increase

Town Manager Dodge said Everett Shorey reviewed the application. He believes it fits the elements of the language of Interstate's rate plan. The across the board increase would include commuter rates. The increase will take effect after the Public Utilities Commission acts. The Town can formulate a position by early March.

9. Consider and act on process for implementation of TNS Charter revisions

First Warden Gaffett noted the changes to the Charter go into effect today. The Council will update their Rules of Procedure to develop notifications for vacancies on Boards and Commissions. The Director of Public Welfare will serve out her elected term and be replaced with a Director appointed by the Council.

10. Review Town Council Rules and Procedure and act on changes if needed

Preliminary discussion of changes to agenda deadlines and implementation of Charter changes for filling vacancies on boards and commissions ensued. The First Warden will draft language and the item will be on upcoming agenda.

11. Boards, Committees and Commissions: annual appointments continued

Conservation Commission

First Warden Gaffett moved, seconded by Second Warden Torrey, to reappoint Marea Mott and Fred Leeder to three-year terms expiring in December, 2013.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Historic District Commission

First Warden Gaffett moved, seconded by Councilor Martin, to reappoint Claire McQueeny and Dennis Riordan to three-year terms expiring in December, 2013.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

No action was taken on a vacancy created by Susan Torrey's resignation.

Island Energy Plan Committee

First Warden Gaffett, seconded by Councilor Baute, moved to reappoint Kevin Hoyt, David Simmons, Barbara MacMullan, Russell Littlefield, Kenneth Lacoste, Peter Baute, Scot Comings, Sam Bird and John Warfel to the Island Energy Plan Committee for one year terms ending in December, 2011.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Library Board of Trustees

First Warden Gaffett, seconded by Councilor Martin, moved to reappoint Constance LaRue to a three-year term expiring in 2013.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Two names were put forward for the remaining vacancy: John Spier and William McKernan. Ms. Gaffett and Dr. Baute agreed Mr. Spier could help the Library with building issues. The Library Board was unaware of Mr. Spier's interest and sent a letter asking that Mr. McKernan be appointed.

Councilor Lacoste, seconded by Councilor Martin, moved to appoint Bill McKernan until December, 2013, replacing retired member John A.K. Sisto.

Ayes: 3 (Torrey, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 2 (Gaffett, Baute)

Planning Board

First Warden Gaffett moved to reappoint Robert Gilpin and Kevin Hoyt to five-year terms expiring in December, 2015. Motion seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Recreation Board

First Warden Gaffett moved to reappoint Sarah Sue Cook, Gail Heinz and Ann Hall to two-year terms expiring in December, 201, seconded by Councilor Lacoste.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

First Warden Gaffett moved to promote First Alternate Tim Clark to the full member position left vacant by the retirement of Janet Merritt, for a term expiring in December 2012; and to promote Chris Willi from the position of second alternate to first alternate for a one-year term expiring in December 2011. Motion was seconded by Councilor Lacoste.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

No action was taken to fill the position of second alternate.

Senior Citizens Advisory Board

First Warden Gaffett moved to reappoint Marguerite Donnelly and Dorothy Graham to three-year terms expiring in December, 2013. Motion seconded by Councilor Lacoste.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

No action was taken to fill the position left vacant by the retirement of William Wilson.

Zoning Board

First Warden Gaffett moved to reappoint first alternate William Comings and second alternate Robert Lamoureux to one-year terms. Motion seconded by Second Warden Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

12. Correspondence: N. Ratti re: wind turbine breakdowns

No action was needed or taken.

13. Minutes: December 8, 2010

Ms. Gaffett moved to approve the minutes with changes discussed, seconded by Mr. Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

14. Closed session re: union matters/contract negotiations (This item may be held in closed session pursuant to RI General Law §42-45(a)(2) for discussions of collective bargaining)

At 8:40, Mr. Lacoste moved to enter closed session pursuant to RIGL §42-45(a)(2) for discussions of collective bargaining, seconded by Ms. Gaffett.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

At 9:30, Mr. Lacoste moved to adjourn the closed session meeting and seal the minutes, seconded by Mr. Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

First Warden Gaffett noted no motions were made during the closed session.

At 9:30 Mr. Torrey moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Minutes approved January 21, 2011

Fiona Fitzpatrick
Town Clerk